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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1996

1. The discussions at the organizational session of the Open-ended Working Group on 1 and 2 February 1996 showed that there was wide support for discussing, in the first instance, the written proposals submitted to the Working Group as well as issues related to cluster II.

2. The Bureau suggests, therefore, that issues could be addressed in the following order at the forthcoming meetings of the Working Group:

(a) Proposals on rotation or shared seats, including Article 23.2 of the Charter;

(b) Proposals on issues in cluster II; working methods of the Security Council and the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly as well as other principal organs of the United Nations;

(c) Decision-making process in the Security Council, including the veto;

(d) Proposals for increase in the non-permanent membership;

(e) Proposals for increase in the permanent membership;

(f) Other matters.

Please note that most of the above-mentioned proposals are contained in document A/49/965.

3. In accordance with the above, while bearing in mind the need for flexibility, the Bureau suggests that the Working Group should start with a brief discussion on this draft programme of work and thereafter address the

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above-mentioned topics within the following time-frame: three meetings for 2 (a), four meetings for 2 (b) and two meetings for initial discussions on 2 (c), 2 (d) and 2 (e). Discussions will continue during the meetings scheduled for 25 to 29 March 1996. The proposed timetable could be updated as necessary.

4. Member States are encouraged to give specific comments on proposals and issues that fall within the scope of the topics listed in paragraph 2 above.

5. After the completion of these in-depth discussions, certain conclusions on agreement, convergence of views and disagreement could be drawn and reflected in updated non-papers on clusters I and II or in other issue-related papers, as appropriate.